United Nations A/C.1/54/L.44*

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
26 October 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 76 (o)
General and complete disarmament: illicit traffic in small arms

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Illicit traffic in small arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/77 T of 4 December 1998,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the report (A/54/404) on the result of his broad-based consultations on the magnitude and scope of the phenomena of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, possible measures to combat illicit trafficking in and circulation of small arms and light weapons and the role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

Convinced of the importance of national, regional and international measures to combat illicit trafficking in and circulation of small arms and light weapons, including those suited to indigenous regional approaches,

In this regard, welcoming the Decision on the Proliferation, Circulation and Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (A/54/424) taken by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its 35th Ordinary Session held in

* Reissued for technical reasons.

99-31563 (E) 261099

Algiers, Algeria; the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials; the Decision on Prevention and Combating of Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Related Crimes (A/54/488-S/1999/1088) taken by the Council of Ministers at the 19th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community, held in Maputo, Mozambique; the initiatives by States members of the Economic Community of West African States to conclude their agreement on a moratorium on the importing, exporting and manufacture of light weapons; and the adoption of the European Union programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in conventional arms and the initiatives undertaken such as the Joint Action on Small Arms (A/54/374) that has been endorsed by several non-European Union Member States,

Welcoming further the assistance provided by Member States in support of bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives aimed at addressing illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

Mindful of the impact of surplus small arms and light weapons on the illicit trade in these weapons, *and welcoming* practical measures undertaken by Member States to destroy surplus weapons and confiscated or collected weapons in accordance with the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his reports on Small Arms (A/52/298 of 27 August 1997 and A/54/258 of 19 August 1999),

Recognizing the human suffering caused by illicit trafficking in small arms and that Governments bear the responsibility to intensify their efforts by developing an understanding of the issues and practical ways of addressing the problem,

Bearing in mind the interface between violence, criminality, drug trafficking, terrorism and illicit trafficking in small arms,

Stressing the importance of ongoing efforts to elaborate an international convention against transnational crime, including a protocol to combat the illicit manufacturing of and illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Considering that the United Nations could through a coordinated approach collect, share and disseminate information to Member States on useful and successful practices to prevent the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and mindful of the role of the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in this regard,

Underlining the importance of increased cooperation and coordination both among the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, and within the United Nations Secretariat through the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in its ongoing initiatives related to illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

Noting with appreciation the workshops on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms held in Lome, Togo and Lima, Peru, respectively arranged by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Conscious of its decision to convene an international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects no later than 2001, and *taking into consideration* the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on Small Arms (A/54/258), prepared with the assistance of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, as well as the views of Member States (A/54/260) on the objectives, scope, agenda, dates and venue of such an international conference,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, and to submit to the international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, information on the magnitude and scope of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, measures to combat illicit trafficking in and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and the role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons;

2. *Encourages* Member States to promote regional and subregional initiatives and requests the Secretary-General, within available financial resources, and also States in a position to do so, to assist States taking such initiatives to address the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in affected regions, and *invites* the Secretary-General to use these initiatives as part of his consultations;

3. *Further encourages* Member States, in a position to do so, to take appropriate national measures to destroy surplus small arms and light weapons, confiscated or collected small arms and light weapons, and to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to the Secretary-General on types and quantities destroyed;

4. *Invites* Member States, in a position to do so, to continue to provide assistance, bilaterally, regionally and through multilateral channels, such as the United Nations, in support of measures associated with combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of this resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Illicit traffic in small arms".